

VZCZCXRO0908

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FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0520

INFO RUEHWH/WESTERN HEMISPHERIC AFFAIRS DIPL POSTS IMMEDIATE

RUEAHND/COMJTF-B SOTO CANO HO IMMEDIATE

RUEKJCS/Joint STAFF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

RUMIAAA/CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE

RUEAHND/CDRJTFB SOTO CANO HO IMMEDIATE

RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

RULGPSU/COMSOCOSOUTH IMMEDIATE

RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

RUEIDN/DNI WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE

RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

RUMIAAA/USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 000817

SENSITIVE

SIPDIS

STATE FOR WHA/CEN

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [CASC](#) [MARR](#) [KDEM](#) [PHUM](#) [ASEC](#) [HO](#)

SUBJECT: TFHO1: HONDURAS COUP SITREP #50 08/25/2009 AS OF
16:00 LOCAL (18:00 EDT)

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 809 AND OTHERS

DEMONSTRATIONS AND OTHER ACTIVITY

¶1. (SBU) At approximately 0945 local (1145 EDT), a group of approximately 1,000-5,000 pro-Zelaya demonstrators gathered peacefully at the National Pedagogical University and marched to the Clarion Hotel. As of 1130 local (1330 EDT), the demonstration had moved toward the Intercontinental Hotel and Multiplaza Mall, en route to the Public Ministry. At 1300 local they had moved along Boulevard Morazan to the headquarters of pro-Zelaya TV Channel 36, and then onward to the offices of pro-Zelaya Radio Globo on the same street. The demonstration disbanded at approximately 1445 local without incident.

¶2. (SBU) According to Honduran police, at 0900 local (1100 EDT), approximately 200-300 pro-Micheletti demonstrators gathered in the southern city of Choluteca and demonstrated peacefully, dispersing at approximately 1400 local. Smaller peaceful pro-Zelaya demonstrations took place today in San Pero Sula, Catacamas, Copan and La Ceiba.

Infrastructure and Communications

¶3. (SBU) Toncontin International Airport in Tegucigalpa (TGU) and San Pedro Sula airport remain open.

¶4. (U) Most of Honduras' land borders with Guatemala and El Salvador are currently open to commercial and private vehicles. The borders between Honduras and Nicaragua have been closed intermittently since Friday, July 24.

¶5. (U) There are no reports of abnormal public utility outages in the country.

Consular and Embassy Operations

¶6. (U) The Embassy is open for normal business on Tuesday,

August 25. The Consular Section will be closed to non-emergency nonimmigrant visa (NIV) services as of Wednesday, August 26 until further notice. The Department's announcement regarding suspension of non-emergency NIVs was relayed on local radio within thirty minutes of its release in Washington. Barring any changes in the security situation, the Consular Section will remain open for other consular services until further notice.

¶7. (U) The Consular Section continues to receive sporadic inquiries from AmCits regarding the political situation. Post circulated a Warden Message Monday, August 10. The Consular Section continues to regularly update ACS information on the Embassy website.

¶8. (SBU) An EAC meeting was held on Tuesday, August 25 at 1500 local (1700 EDT), to be reported septel. The next EAC will be held as needed

HENSHAW